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February 24, 1986

TO: Heads of Executive Agencies and Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Waiver Statutes to Include Waiver of Travel, Transportation and Relocation Expenses and Allowances

This is to advise you of the enactment of Public Law No. 99-224 on December 28, 1985, which amended the statutes granting the Comptroller General, and in limited circumstances agency heads, the authority to waive collection of erroneous payments made to civilian employees and members of the Armed Services. See 5 U.S.C. § 5584, 10 U.S.C. § 2774, and 32 U.S.C. § 716. Prior to enactment of P.L. 99-224, this waiver authority was limited to erroneous payments of pay and allowances. With the enactment of P.L. 99-224, waiver authority has been expanded to include the authority to waive erroneous payments of travel, transportation and relocation expenses and allowances.

Waiver of erroneous payments of travel, transportation and relocation expenses and allowances is now authorized where collection would be against equity and good conscience and not in the best interests of the United States. Please note, however, that Public Law 99-224 is not retroactive. This expanded authority applies, in the case of travel, transportation and relocation expenses and allowances, only to overpayments made on or after December 28, 1985.

The GAO's regulations for waiver of erroneous payments of pay and allowances are set forth at 4 C.F.R. Parts 91 through 93. Until these standards are revised to incorporate the new waiver authority, they should be applied to the consideration of requests to waive erroneous payments of travel, transportation and relocation expenses and allowances. Accordingly, where applicable standards are met, agencies may waive erroneous payments of travel, transportation and relocation expenses and allowances where the amount does not exceed \$500.00. Other cases should be forwarded to the GAO according to the criteria set out at 4 C.F.R. § 92.3(c) and (d).

